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HAIG CITES PROOF OF NICARAGUA ROLE IN SALVADOR WAR

DOUBT VOICED BY REP. LONG

Secretary Asserts a Sandinist
Aiding Rebels Is Captured
— Claims Cuban Role

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

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WASHINGTON, March 4 — Challenged to prove his contention that the Salvadoran insurgents were being directed by foreigners, Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. told a House committee this afternoon that a "Nicaraguan military man" who was helping run the guerrilla operation had been captured today in El Salvador.

In a sometimes heated exchange with Representative Clarence D. Long, chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, Mr. Haig also said that the United States had "unchallengeable" evidence "of the Nicaraguan involvement in El Salvador and the Cuban involvement in the command and control of the operations in El Salvador today."

Concerning Nicaragua, he asserted that there were 2,000 Cuban military advisers, 70 Soviet military advisers, and 30 from North Korea, East Germany, Bulgaria and the Palestine Liberation Organization working with its 25,000-member armed forces.

Details Provided to Panels

On Tuesday, Mr. Haig told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that the United States had "overwhelming and irrefutable" proof of foreign control of the Salvadoran insurgency. He declined to give details, asserting that it would jeopardize intelligence sources.

Today, Mr. Haig said that the details had been provided by the Administration to both the Senate and House Intelligence Committees. When Mr. Long complained that his committee also needed to evaluate it, Mr. Haig said some information would be provided to the Representative on Friday but

seemed to suggest that it would not be as detailed as that given the intelligence committees. He proposed that Mr. Long accept the evaluation of "your colleagues" on the intelligence panels.

Mr. Long, who has a reputation for being skeptical of foreign aid in general, replied: "I have a mind of my own and I like to use it. I'd like to see the evidence myself, and if the State Department is unwilling to show it to me or let me see it, that makes me wonder, you see."

Linked to Aid Package

He said, "I am certainly not prepared to recommend to the committee we consider the Caribbean Basin Initiative supplemental until such information is made available." His committee will have to act on a request for \$350 million in economic aid and \$60 million in military assistance for countries in the Caribbean region for the current fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30.

Mr. Haig made no commitment, pointing out that the sharing of information with intelligence committees was a procedure set up by Congress.

The official purpose of Mr. Haig's appearance was to defend the Administration's overall package of \$9.4 billion in economic and military aid for fiscal year 1983, an increase of \$1.4 billion over the current fiscal year. But much of the questioning was about the situation in the Caribbean region.

Mr. Haig's attack on Nicaragua was seemingly spurred by comments from Mr. Long that he had spoken with Daniel Saavedra Ortega, the head of the Sandinist Government in Nicaragua. Mr. Long said Mr. Ortega told him that his Government was not involved in El Salvador and wanted to have good relations with the United States.

Another member of the Nicaraguan Government, Jaime Román Wheelock, was in Washington today and told a press conference, "I want to make it clear that Nicaragua is not engaged in any transfer of arms to El Salvador."

'Right to Support Revolution'

Mr. Haig dismissed the Nicaraguan leader's offer to hold talks with the United States, as well as a similar proposal recently made by President José López Portillo of Mexico. He said the United States had proposed twice last year to the Nicaraguan leaders that a way should be found to resolve differences.

"Despite what they may have said to you," he told Mr. Long, Democrat of Maryland, the Sandinists have insisted and maintained to the Administration that "they have not only the right but the intention to support revolutions in neighboring states in Central America, with specific focus on El Salvador."

"You might also know, Mr. Chairman, that today for the first time a Nicaraguan military man was captured in Salvador, having been sent down by the F.S.L.N. to participate in the direction which is so evident of this guerrilla operation from Nicaragua," Mr. Haig said. He offered no further details on the reported prisoner. The F.S.L.N. is the Sandinist Front for National Liberation, which runs Nicaragua.

The State Department, asked to amplify on Mr. Haig's comment, said it had nothing more to add.

Salvadoran Cites Evidence

In an interview in San Salvador earlier this afternoon, the Defense Minister, Gen. José Guillermo García, made no mention of the capture of a Nicaraguan military man today but said other Nicaraguans had been captured by the armed forces in operations against the guerrillas and cited that as evidence of Nicaraguan interference in the civil war in his country.

Representative Bob Livingston, Republican of Louisiana, who is a member of the official American observer delegation to the Salvadoran elections on

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March 28, was told by Mr. Haig that "three-quarters of the Nicaraguan people" oppose the Sandinist Government.

Mr. Haig then launched into an attack on what he called the "genocidal" actions of the Nicaraguan Government against the Miskito Indians, who inhabit Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. For the past three weeks, the Administration has sought to attract public attention for its charges of a massacre having occurred in the Miskito area.

The Nicaraguan authorities have claimed that the Miskitos were evacuated to special camps for their own safety last month.

Haig Tells of Attack on Town

Mr. Haig said that last week a delegation from the United States Embassy in Honduras went to a refugee camp in Honduras, across the Nicaraguan border, to interview the Miskitos there. He said the camp had grown in size from 200 to 5,800 and was expected to house as many as 10,000 within two weeks.

"Each and every one of the refugees was interviewed," Mr. Haig said. "They described the entry of Nicaraguan and Cuban and other Caucasian, non-Spanish-speaking people that they assumed to be Russian, into their villages."

"All of the population was assembled at the church, stripped of their belongings," he continued. "Those who objected were shot and murdered on the spot. The village was razed to the

ground. All the livestock, animals, cats and dogs, pets, were destroyed."

He said that photographs had been taken by the United States authorities of some 16 villages that had been "burnt and plowed over" and they will be made public soon.

Clarification on Bases

Previously, the Administration had complained that the American press had not paid attention to photographs in the weekly supplement of *Le Figaro*, a Paris newspaper, purporting to show Miskitos in distress. The newspaper later disclosed that it had mistakenly published a 1978 photo from the Nicaraguan civil war.

On Wednesday, the State Department said that the United States was seeking rights to use air bases in Colombia and Honduras. Today, a senior State Department official said the United States wanted to have fields to which it could send fighter squadrons in an emergency since the Navy lacks enough carriers to keep one on station all the time in the Caribbean.

The official said, however, that despite the statement by the State Department spokesman, Dean Fischer, Colombia and Honduras were not necessarily the countries where the United States was seeking air base facilities. He would not be more precise.